



THE

# KNIGHT



Volume 11 No. 5 Issue #65. The LITHUANIAN Numismatic Association. Frank Passic, EDITOR. February-March 1989

LITH. NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY TRANSLATION SERIES BEGINS THIS ISSUE PAGE 4.

## LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION SURVEY RESULTS

Last issue we presented the first half of our membership survey results, which helps us gain a consensus of the needs, concerns, and desires of our members.

This issue we are focusing on our members' **collecting interests**. There were 39 persons who filled out this section. These are the results:

### Modern material:

COINS. 35 of you collect modern Lithuanian coins. (4 of you don't).

BANKNOTES: 26 persons collect Lithuanian banknotes.

MEDALS: 18 persons collect modern Lithuanian medals.

TOKENS: 11 persons collect Lithuanian tokens.

MILITARY DECORATIONS: 10 persons collection Lithuanian military decorations.

STAMPS: 20 (about half of our responses) persons also collect Lithuanian stamps.

SCRIP, COUPONS, CAMP MONEY, etc.: 15 persons collect these items.

BANKING MEMORABILIA: 5 collectors.

BADGES: 8 persons.

RELIGIOUS MEDALS: 5 persons.

OTHER: 12 persons.

### Medieval Material:

COINS: 21 persons.

MEDALS: 4

KAPA silver bars: 4

Q. Have you used the Want/For Sale ad service we offer?

12 responded YES, while 17 responded NO.

There we a couple of you who checked everything, which we take it to mean that if it is Lithuanian, you collect it, no matter what.

On the OTHER responses, these were the collecting interests: Lithuanian Lodge periodicals and publications; books & maps & picture cards; prayer books and holy cards; passports; medieval wax seals; postcards & amber; revenue stamps & covers, postal stationery,

The long-awaited English translation of Lithuanian State Mint director Jonas K. Karys' 1970 book, **NUMIZMATIKA** is now beginning in serial form, beginning with this issue of The Knight.! See Page 4 for details!



Modern Lithuanian Coins Are  
Collected by nearly all our LNA  
Members.

maps, etc.; maps; tourist pins still issued to date; uniforms, guns, ammunition; and postcards, including Memel.

Regarding the general collecting, several responded that you probably would collect it if it would be available to collect, such as

Regarding the general collecting, several responded that you probably would collect it if it would be available to collect, such as you only had 1 token, or never heard of a kapa becoming available before, etc. "When I can find them" was a typical comment written in the margins."

Continued on page 2...

# LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY



BY

Jonas K. Karys

English Translation by  
V.L.G. Matelis

With this issue of *The Knight*, we begin a lengthy but interesting series. We are presenting an English language translation of Jonas K. Karys last book, *NUMIZMATIKA*, or "Numismatics," published in 1970 by "Aukeslis"/Immaculata Press, Putnam, CT. Library of Congress Catalog Card # 72-108424. The translation has been done by our LNA translator, Val Matelis.

We are entitling this work **LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC DICTIONARY**. The subject matter covers all areas of Lithuanian Numismatics, plus basic numismatic knowledge. It will give the numismatist an understanding of how numismatic terms look in the Lithuanian language, and their English translations. The terms are listed in Lithuanian alphabetical order, although the subject being discussed may start with another letter in the English language. For example: *ANTKAKLIS* is "neck choker" in English. These were large metal rings worn in ancient days on a person's neck and some times were used as a medium of exchange. In our *Dictionary* translation, we are listing the Lithuanian term in capital letters first, followed by a slash, and then the English translation of that term in small letters. Thus: *ANTKAKLIS/Neck Choker*.

This presentation will complete our translations of all of Mr. Karys' three books on Lithuanian numismatics. We previously translated and sent to all LNA members English translations of his books *Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai* (Independent Lithuanian Money ) and *Senoves Lietuviu Pinigai* (Ancient Lithuanian Money), published originally in 1953 and 1959, respectively. Karys (1903-1984) served as the director of the Lithuanian State Mint at Kaunas, Lithuania, during its entire duration, from 1936 to 1939.

Items in brackets [ ] have been added by the editor of *The Knight* or by the translator. Original copies of this book may be studied at the library of the American Numismatic Association in Colorado Springs, Colorado (they let members borrow books by mail), or in the library of the Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture in Chicago.

The second portion of the book *Numizmatika* contained a reprint of various articles Mr. Karys wrote in Lithuanian publications about Lithuanian numismatics. Several of these we have already translated and published in *The Knight*. Therefore, we will not be presenting these as part of this project, but any remaining articles in this section we have not published, we will do so as a regular article in *The Knight*.

## INTRODUCTION

[Originally published as "Final Thoughts of the Author" on pp. 339-340 at the end of the book].

This volume on themes of the science of numismatics are my "trilogy," and final words. For two decades of years and more, I have attempted to accomplish my chosen objective: The field of Lithuanian numismatics, fallowed by ages, has been plowed up afresh! What has been left undone, or what still is to be done, I leave to younger hands, wishing them success...



## THE 1936 5 LITAI (Y-12) FEATURING JONAS BASANAVIČIUS

5 Litai, 1936

Y-12

Weight: 9 gr.

Diameter: 27 mm.

Metal Content: .750 Silver, .250 copper. .2170 troy ounce actual silver weight.

Edge: Incused "TAUTOS ★ GEROVĖ ★ TAVO ★ GEROVĖ"

Mintage: 2,612,000

Designer: Juozas Zikaras

Mint: Kaunas; dies prepared at Brussels mint.

Patterns: A) plain edge, rotated reverse. B) test strike, lettered edge, rotated reverse. C) plain edge, "J. ZIKARAS" spelled out below bust. Reverse not rotated.



Pictured:  
5 Litai "J. ZIKARAS"  
pattern obverse.

As part of our "back to the basics" in consideration of our newer members, this month we are featuring the coin we began with in our first issue, June-July 1978.

**OBVERSE.** The obverse features a bust of Lithuanian patriarch, Dr. Jonas Basanavičius. Born in Ozkabliai on November 23, 1851, Basanavičius became the leader of the Lithuanian national movement, which led to Lithuanian independence. A well known physician and ethnologist, he went to Bulgaria in 1880 to escape Russian domination. There he published a newspaper called *Aušra*, printed in the forbidden Lithuanian tongue, which promoted national consciousness and the desire for Lithuanian freedom.

Basanavičius also wrote about Lithuanian ethnology and linguistics. In one article he argued that the Lithuanians were direct descendants of the Thraco-Phrygians of the Indo-European family.

With the relaxation of restrictions by Russia in 1905, Basanavičius returned to Lithuania, and as its oldest member, was the first person in the Council of Lithuania (Taryba) to sign the Lithuanian Declaration of Restoration of Independence on February 16, 1918 (he could be called the "John Hancock" of Lithuania) in the capital city of Vilnius. Basanavičius continued to write articles, and died in Polish-occupied Vilnius on February 16 (Lithuanian independence day), 1927.

The bust of Basanavičius faces left, with the top legend reading, "JONAS BASANAVIČIUS." On the bottom is stated "5 LITAI 5," with the designer's initials, "J.Z." appearing in small letters under the bust's shoulder area. The edge of the coin is inscribed, "TAUTOS ★ GEROVĖ ★ TAVO ★ GEROVĖ," which translates, "The Nation's Good is Your Good."

In 1936, the Brussels mint struck two types of preliminary patterns, before sending the finalized dies to Kaunas. The first pattern, "A," is the circulation design, but bears a plain edge and a rotated reverse. Apparently officials were pleased with this design, as they then minted some test strikes of the same, bearing a rotated reverse, on a regular lettered-edge planchet, which we are calling pattern "B."

A third pattern design, probably made first, is known as pattern "C." It contains a smaller and flatter bust of Basanavičius, a plain edge, but the reverse is not rotated. Most importantly, this pattern features below the bust of Basanavičius, "J. ZIKARAS," instead of just "J.Z." Officials may have discovered that a flatter bust of Basanavičius was difficult to strike due to poor metal flow, or decided that "J. ZIKARAS" was too conspicuous (U.S. officials felt this way about the 1909 Lincoln Cent, using the initials of Victor David Brenner, a Lithuanian/Jewish immigrant, on the reverse of that coin), or perhaps these were specially made in honor of the designer Zikaras. This "J. ZIKARAS" pattern is proof-like and is quite beautiful.

**TRENDS:** The 1936 5 Litai is very easy to obtain, and is usually the first coin collected by a beginner. Average trends for this coin are: Fine: \$8.00. Very Fine \$12-15. Extra Fine \$20. Unc \$25-30.

It should be noted that some researchers have made distinctions as to which way the inscribed edge reads, from the obverse, or from the reverse. The planchets were already inscribed before striking and were struck without regard to planchet positioning (i.e. at random).

# LITHUANIAN NUMISMATIC ASSOCIATION

## SURVEY RESULTS

Continued from page 1....

As to specific collections, you responded with these comments: [I collect...]

"Complete modern collection, some medieval, tourist pins, almost complete postage collection, some stamps from Danzig, Memel, Latvia, Estonia."

"Coinage of the German States, which well worked into NE Europe."

"Modern Issues."

"Half-Grasis coins of Sigismund August, Revenues, stamps, medieval Baltic coins, especially Lithuania."

"Particularly 3 Grasis coins of Sigismund III from Riga, also Latvia."

"Too general for one specialty. I also collect general Baltic."

"Polish Related material."

"Any and all Lithuanian material within my income, which makes my collection sparse and meager."

"Especially up to the 19th century Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia."

"Coinage of the 16th Century."

"I am a beginner-no specialty yet!"

From these results I think we can make the following conclusions: Most of us are basic collectors: coins and banknotes, with a proportionate drop-off for the more specialized areas of medals, tokens, military decorations, etc. There is a genuine interest in Medieval coinage of the Baltic region. Many of you are also Lithuanian stamp and postcard collectors.

**Q. How do these results affect The KNIGHT?**

As I look back upon ten years of research by yours truly and others such as Vince Alones, John Glynn, and Henry Gaidis, for example, I see we have for the most part represented the results of this survey, excepting stamps, of course. Perhaps there has been more concentration on the military medals/decorations, but this is a virgin field and no one else sent in any articles about something else. We have not mentioned much about religious medals, nor medieval medals, because of our lack of research time necessary to properly write about them.

Because several of you are working with specialized collections, why not write us an article about them, sharing with us what you have learned? You don't have to have your name printed if you don't want to.

Regarding the Want/For Sale ads, many of you mentioned you like it very much, but there always is so little for sale! But you generally want to use this service, if you could!

Regarding the strong response to expand to include Latvian and Estonian material, this editor cannot undertake more research due to time limitations, but would welcome some articles on these topics if you so desire. It must be understood that such articles cannot be more than 1-2 pages and they would probably be placed on pages 4-5 of *The Knight*, unless it had more significance to Lithuania (such as the Bermondist notes issued in Latvia which also circulated in Lithuania, etc.) in which such an article could be a front cover story, because yours truly has to set the articles up and the first page is the one he does first. So this is an invitation to our Latvian and Estonian collectors to write an article about their speciality.

**IF POSSIBLE**, please make these articles "copy ready." Leave at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " margins around the edges of the paper, and don't paste the pictures in (excepting if they are Xeroxed). If you cannot make it "copy ready," I understand, but in that case I will have to type it up myself. Send it in anyway.

We realize that there are many similarities among the Baltic countries' relationships regarding numismatics, etc. Many Lithuanian soldiers were awarded Latvian military orders/decorations, etc. for their help in Latvia, and of course there is Latvia's historical presence in northern Lithuania, and along the Baltic seacoast, such as at Palanga. The author Jonas K. Karys makes numerous references to Latvia in his books and the circulation of various items between the two areas.

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5.

In addition to our own national problems, in the Dictionary I have included as evident (with explanations at least schematized) hundreds of foreign and international numismatic proper nouns and personal references. There and elsewhere, I touched upon United States coins. For that reason, Numizmatika will be necessary and useful not only to specialists but to some others who might glance at it from time to time. For it is the season, I hope, for all of us to know what "mina" means (having nothing to do with explosives), shekel, double denar, electron. Or what a test of purity entails, or an obol, guinea or shilling means, or why ligature is not just one of the mixtures in precious metal; or a legend can be something else than just a tradition or a fable; a numismatist, not just a coin collector, etc.

In the second part of this volume I have put together some of the more important numismatic studies (and a few letters) which were scattered among the exile [Lithuanians in exile following World War II] press. Here, together with other ends, they will obviously serve to supplement the Dictionary. Thus, all these data, collected in my own fashion in this book, will enable the reader to orient himself even without my other works (See Senoves Lietuviu Pinigiu and Nepriklausomos Lietuvos Pinigai), if he does not have at hand either the one or the other. Their circulation was small, and reprints are not to be expected among the migratory populace.

I have brightened the text of Numizmatika with 180 illustrations, comprising more than a thousand items, small and large. For the convenience of the reader, I have placed them in the book not in the accustomed archaic way (chart after chart stuck in the back of the volume), but each separately, and at those particular places where the illustrations help explain the matters described.

In certain of my earlier published themes on Lithuanian numismatic subjects, some errors occurred. In this work I have endeavored to correct them and adjust the meaning. Now, in all cases, the latest documentation is given, the final figures and conclusions.

I have written this book, as well as the other two, in exile and in very difficult conditions. I could devote only my "rest periods" and weekends, since each week I worked 40 to 50 hours to earn our living.

No one has paid me for my numismatic studies and themes, I received no subsidies from anyone. I therefore particularly appreciate my wife Joan's patience and long-lasting cooperation, and rare heartwarming material assistance, as a must in preparing my volumes for the printer, as well as issuing them in book form to the reader. Similarly, I am thankful to the volunteers establishing a printing fund of \$100 each for publishing Numizmatika. Msgr. Francis Juras, student Vilia O. Bakstytis, artist Vl. Stancikaitis and Vincent Abraciams, Vanda and Anthony Gruzdziams, Father J.P. Yuscavage (Juskevicius) the L. Reivydas family, and to the Lithuanian Association of the Bridgeport Environs.

---To you, Ageless Fatherland of Lithuanians!  
Tau, amzinoji Lietuviu Tėvyne!

February 16, 1970  
60 Sims St.  
Bridgeport, CT. USA.

JONAS K. KARYS

# NUMISMATICS

DICTIONARY, STUDIES

BY

Jonas K. Karys

## ABBREVIATIONS

aptariamasis žodis žodyne kartoja-  
 mas pirma jo raide (pvz.: Moneta —  
 m.; Monetų Kalykla — M. K.; Ost-  
 markė — o.).  
 a. — amžius (šimtmetis)  
 alium. — aliuminis  
 angl. — angliškai  
 atask. — ataskaitinis  
 atom. — atominis  
 atsak. — atsakingas  
 auks. — auksinis  
 bronz. — bronzinis, bronzinė, bron-  
 zos  
 buv. — buvęs, buvusi  
 c. — bent kurios pinigų sistemos  
 centas  
 centr. — centrinis, centrinė  
 cm — centimetras  
 ct — lietuviškasis centas  
 D. — Didysis  
 dabart. — dabartinis  
 datos: III. 4. 1903 (ar 03) — kovo  
 mėn. 4 diena 1903 metų; 1569 —  
 1569 metais; IV a. sen. eros — IV  
 amžiaus senosios eros; 173 nauj.  
 eros — 173 metai po Kristaus gi-  
 mimo. Etc.  
 denominac. — denominacija  
 dgsk. — daugiskaita  
 dipl. — diplomuotas, baigęs Univer-  
 sitetą  
 dol. — doleris  
 egz. — egzempliorius  
 eil. — eilės, eilinis  
 etc. — ir panašiai; ir kiti daiktai  
 bei dalykai; ir taip toliau  
 foim. — formatas  
 g — gramas  
 g. — gimęs  
 gr. — granas  
 graik. — graikiškai  
 imper. — imperatoriai  
 inflac. — infliacija  
 ir kt. — ir kiti, ir kitoki, ir kitiems,  
 ir kitur  
 ir tt. — ir taip toliau  
 ispan. — ispaniškai  
 istat. — įstatymas  
 ist. — įsteigtas  
 istor. — istorinis, istorinė  
 išsp. — išspausdinta  
 kald. — kaldinta  
 kap. — kapeika  
 kar. — karatas (ir car. — tas pats)  
 klas. — klasikinis  
 klmn. — kilmininkas  
 krikšč. — krikščioniškas  
 K-tystė — Kunigaikštystė  
 K-tis — Kunigaikštis  
 laik. — laikinasis  
 lenk. — lenkiškai  
 liet. — lietuviškai  
 lyg. — lyginamasis  
 lot. — lotyniškai  
 LDK-tystė — Lietuvos Didžioji  
 Kunigaikštystė  
 LDK-tis — Lietuvos Didysis  
 Kunigaikštis  
 Lt — litas, litai  
 m — metras  
 m. — metalai  
 metal. — metalinis  
 metr. sist. — metrinė sistema  
 mėn. — mėnuo  
 mil. — milijonas  
 min. — minėtas, minimas  
 mm — milimetras  
 modern. — moderniškai  
 mok. — mokamasis  
 mon. — moneta, monetos  
 monetar. — monetinė  
 mongol. — mongoliškai  
 mst. — miestas  
 mušd. — mušdinta, mušdintas

nauj. — naujasis, naujas

nauj. era — naujoji era, po Kristaus gimimo  
 ofic. — oficialus, oficialiai  
 p. — punktas, pastraipa  
 pas. — pasaulinis  
 pav. — paveikslas  
 pers. — persiškai  
 pinig. — piniginis  
 po Kr. — po Kristaus  
 pr. Kr. — prieš Kristų  
 pranc. — prancūzų, prancūziškai  
 prek. — prekybinis  
 psl. — puslapis  
 pvz. — pavyzdys, pavyzdžiui  
 real. — realinis, realinė  
 rom. — romėnų  
 rubl. — rublis  
 rus. — rusiškai, rusiškas  
 sen. — senovės  
 sen. era — senoji era, iki Kristaus, prieš Kristų  
 sid. — sidabrinis, sidabrinė, sidabro  
 sist. — sistema  
 skaič. — skaičius  
 skyr. — skyrius  
 slav. — slaviškai  
 str. — straipsnis  
 sutrump. — sutrumpintai  
 svor. — svoris  
 šv. — šventas  
 šved. — švediškai

svor. — savoris  
šv. — šventas  
šved. — švediškai

ABECELE/ABC's, see Raidynas/Alphabet.

ADULTERINA MONETA/Adulterated Coin, see Falsifikatas/Counterfeiting.

Ae. In numismatics, the symbol for bronze. Ancient Roman symbols AeI, AeII, AeIII, designate large, medium, and small bronze coins.

AEGINA. A Greek island. A renowned ancient trade center, a leader among other neighboring cities in its trade facilities. About 650 B.C. the first European silver coins were struck here.

Aes. A general description of ancient Roman copper and bronze coins.

AFGHANI. The Afghanistan unit of money, containing 100 puls, silver.

Ag (or Ar). The symbol for silver (see Sidabras/silver).

AGIO. The difference between a coin's nominal value and its market value (in use in circulation). The term may be positive or negative (DISAGIO) when in the market or in relation to other currencies, the coin is valued at less than its named denomination.

AKUMO/Stone. 1) Ancient Lithuanian unit of weight, in the metric system: about 15 kilos, and divided into 40 vasku/wax (see Vaskas/Was and Svaras/pound).

Al. The symbol for aluminum (see Aliuminis/aluminum).

ALAVAS/Tin. See Cinas/tin.

ALBUS. The "white" coin of the Rhein Germans (Weisspfennig), who began striking it at Trier-Cologne in the middle 14th century. At the start, the coin contained 0.80 silver content and weighed about 2.7 grams. Through its long life it was debased to about 1 gram of billon. The albus is also known as the Rhein groschen. In its day, it was circulated and struck in Germanic countries.

ALEXANDRAS/Alexander. Grand Duke of Lithuania (1492-1506) and King of Poland (1501-1506). On his coins (denars and half-grasis) struck in Vilnius, Lithuania, the Lithuanian and Polish emblems were first joined: the Vytis/Knight on the obverse, and the Polish Eagle on the reverse.

ALFA ir OMEGA/Alpha and Omega. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, representing the "beginning and end" of everything. A Christian symbol, found in the 4th century Roman and later on some other Anglo-Saxon and other European countries coins.

**A a Ω ω**

ALFABETAS/Alphabet. See Raidynas/Alphabet.

ALGIRDAS. Grand Duke of Lithuania (1345-1377). In the sixth decade of the 14th century, he established a small coin mint in Vilnius and began striking the first "modern" [we call "medieval"] Lithuanian coins with two sides (see Pecat). At the same time, Grand Duke Kestutis (see Kestutis) began striking his pinigelius/small change or denars at Trakai.

ALIANSINES MONETOS/Alliance Coins. See Sajungines monetos/Alliance coins.

ALUMINIO BRONZA/Aluminum Bronze. A 90-95% copper and 10-5% aluminum alloy. An admixture of aluminum makes copper harder, more resilient, and brightens its color from red to yellowish. Aluminum bronze is widely used in trade, and also in the coin mints. Independent Lithuania's 1925 issue of coins: the 1, 5, 10, 20, and 50 centu denominations were struck from 90% copper and 10% aluminum.

ALUMINIS/Aluminum. A light metal, white, similar to silver. Eil No. 13 Atomic weight 26.98, comparative weight 2.7 Melting temperature 659 degrees centigrade. Widely used invarious industrial applications, as well as minting of coins.

Continued next issue...



## 8. LITHUANIAN MEDAL FEATURED AS PART OF ARTICLE

In the December, 1988 issue of *The Numismatist*, (ANA) pp. 2078-2084, there was an article by Raymond J. Hebert entitled, "Windows on Eternity," dealing with the Willis H. duPont Collection at the Smithsonian Institution, depicting a collection of medals featuring churches in the Russian Empire.

One of these medals features the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Vilnius. The description in *The Numismatist* is as follows:

### Vilnius

A SILVER MEDAL commemorates the third centennial of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania. The church was located on Nyemetzkaya, or "German Street," beginning at the southwest corner of Theater Square.



A silver medal commemorates the third centennial of the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Vilnius.

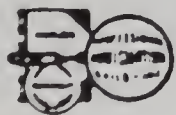
## WANT ADS

**FOR SALE:** Capital Plastic custom made holder for the complete Y1-L4 circulation coins of the Republic of Lithuania. Excellent for the Lithuanian numismatist. \$22.50. We also have an assortment of Lithuanian coins for sale to put in these holders. Write for prices. Balzekas Museum of Lithuanian Culture, 6500 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, Ill 60629.

**WANTED:** I would like copies of the publication TEYVENE published by the Lithuanian Alliance of America. Peter Shulin, 645 Hayes Ave., Washington, PA 15301.

**WANTED:** Your want ad here! Members have "extras" in their collections, and maybe they would like to sell some of them or make **TRADES**. We haven't had any trade ads in a long while. Example: "My 1925 50 centai coin in VF for your xyz Lith. postcard," or perhaps "I need a 1930 20 Litu banknote; will trade with my UNC 1936 10 Litu coin." Be fair and creative.

A lot of our members expressed interest in this regular column. They said that they wish there were more things for sale. We know this even includes common Lithuanian coins as there are new subscribers and new collectors all the time. If you have any extras in your collection, list them here! This is a **FREE** service to non-commercial LNA members.



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